## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, USINJC, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN FINANCE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOEKER

- 1. FINANCE SECRETARY MANMOHAN SINGH, ACCOMPANIED BY INDIAN EMBASSY MINISTERS DIXIT AND BAIJAL, CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOEKER (EB) APRIL 27. URGENT MEETING PREVENTED ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ FROM PARTICIPATING AS PLANNED. GRAHAME (NEA/INS) SAT IN. INDIANS RAISED IDA V AND ECON/COMMERCIAL SUBCOMMISSION DURING COURSE 30 MINUTE DISCUSSION.
- 2. IDA SINGH SAID GOI WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF REDUCTION IN INDIA'S SHARE OF IDA LENDING AND HOPED USG WAS NOT SEEKING SUCH A REDUCTION, NOTING THAT THERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS NO OBJECTIVE REASON FOR REDUCTION AND THAT ANY REDUCTION IN INDIA'S 40 PERCENT SHARE OF IDA LENDING WOULD HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS. BOEKER SAID THAT WE WERE NOT CAMPAIGNING FOR REDUCTION OF INDIA'S SHARE AND THAT DURING THE IDA V PERIOD INDIA WOULD RECEIVE VERY SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN IDA LENDING FLOWS. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT 40 PERCENT WAS CEILING RATHER THAN ALLOCATION AND

THAT WHILE THERE WAS NO REASON TO ALTER CEILING, ALLOCATION WOULD BE DETERMINED BY OBJECTIVE LENDING CRITERIA. BOEKER

SAID OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE BANK'S FORMULATION OF THOSE CRITERIA WAS RELAXED, CONSTRUCTIVE AND NON-POLITICAL. WHILE WE HAD NO STRONG PRESUMPTIONS CONCERNING OUTCOME OF BANK STUDY, WE ASSUME THAT UNDER ANY REASONABLE SET OF CRITERIA INDIA'S SHARE HOULD NOT FALL MUCH BELOW 40 PERCENT CEILING. HE NOTED THAT IMPROVED CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA HAVE BEEN HELPFUL ON THIS ISSUE. HOWEVER, THERE ARE MANY IN THE CONGRESS WHO WOULD STILL LIKE TO SEE, ONCE IDA CREDITS ARE FULLY COMMITTED SOME 3 YEARS FROM NOW, AN INDICATION OF SOMEWHAT BROADER DISTRIBUTION OF IDA CREDITS AMONG LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES

3. ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SUBCOMMISSION - SINGH SAID GOI WANTED TO MAKE SUBCOMMISSION MORE PRODUCTIVE AND CITED. BILATERAL TRADE PROBLEMS - GSP ELIGIBILITY, U.S. QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS - AND INDO-U.S. COMMERCIAL COOPERATION IN THIRD COUNTRIES AS TWO AREAS FOR SUBCOMMISSION CONCENTRATION. SINGH SAID SUBCOMMISSION SHOULD TAKE MORE OPERATIONAL ROLE IN PROMOTING THIRD COUNTRY COOPERATION. DIXIT, CONCEDING THAT CONCRETE PROGRESS IN THIS AREA DEPENDED ON PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES, SAID SUBCOMMISSION NEEDED TO ESTABLISH MECHANISM FOR DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION TO U.S. BUSINESS. BOEKER SAID WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO WORK WITH INDIANS ON FORMULATION OF SUBCOMMISSION PROGRAM AND SUGGESTED THAT INDIAN EXPERIENCE WITH GSP AND THE ROLE IN INDIA OF OPIC INSURANCE AND FINANCING WOULD BE USEFUL AREAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR DISCUSSION. NOTING THAT CURRENT POSITIVE U.S. PUBLIC AND PRESS REACTIONS TO DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA SHOULD PROVIDE HELPFUL ATMOSPHERE FOR SUBCOMMISSION WORK, BOEKER ASKED IF GOI HAD DECIDED ON TIMING OF NEXT SUBCOMMISSION MEETING. SINGH MADE NO RESPONSE. VANCE

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